

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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-----271651Z 001504 /43
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING

S E C R E T STATE 310925

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR GATES

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CH, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 1

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 1 ADDRESSED
TO BRENT SCOWCROFT AND ME. HAVING SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM THE PEKING PERSPECTIVE AT THIS POINT IS TIMELY AND
USEFUL, AND I APPRECIATE YOUR INITIATIVE.

AS YOU WILL SEE FROM THE TRANSITION PAPER I AM SENDING
YO, FOR YOUR EYES ONLY, UE SHARE YOUR
CONCERN ABOUT HOW ACTIONS EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION
MIGHT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT OF OUR RELATIONS THROUGH THE
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WHOLE OF THE COMING PERIOD. HOWEVER, IN THIS PAPER--AND,
IN FACT, IN THE DEPARTMENT-WIDE TRANSITION PROCESS SO FAR
--WE HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF MAKING SPECIFIC POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT, OF COURSE, WILL BE

CALLED UPON AT A LATER DATE TO DO SO, PERHAPS ONLY AFTER

JANUARY 20, AND YOUR LETTER WILL HELPFULLY SHARPEN
THINKING ON WHAT CONCRETE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN.

I AGREE WITH MANY OF THE POINTS YOU MAKE, BUT I DO HAVE
SOME RESERVATIONS WITH OTHERS. I FEEL WE MUST BE VERY
CAUTIOUS IN PROBING THE DEGREE OF CHINESE INTRANSIGENCE
ON THE JAPANESE MODEL'S THREE CONDITIONS, IN PART BECAUSE
I BELIEVE THE NEW PEKING REGIME--AS WELL AS THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION HERE--NEEDS SOME CHANCE TO SETTLE IN. AT
THE SAME TIME, I SHARE COMPLETELY YOUR HOPE THAT OUR
SUCCESSORS WILL PROVIDE THE REASSURING SIGNALS OF THE
SORT YOU DESCRIBE. THE REPORTING WE RECEIVE FROM USLO
IN THE WEEKS TO COME, PARTICULARLY ON CHINESE ATTITUDES
THAT BEAR ON OUR RELATIONS, WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT IN
ENABLING WASHINGTON TO JUDGE WISELY WHAT STEPS IT MIGHT
TAKE.

YOU PROBABLY WILL BE RECEIVING A MORE FORMAL FAREWELL
FROM ME NEXT MONTH, BUT I DO WANT TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL WE ALL ARE HERE
FOR YOUR HAVING TAKEN ON THE ASSIGNMENT TO PEKING. I
DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE PERSONAL SACRIFICES YOU HAVE MADE--
AND THE FRUSTRATIONS YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED--IN DOING SO.
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE MADE A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE FURTHERANCE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT INTERESTS, AND I HOPE
YOU FEEL THE SAME ABOUT YOUR SERVICE IN PEKING.

YOU HAVE MY SINCERE ADMIRATION AND WARM WISHES,

KISSINGER
SECRET

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ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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